

# Range extension of the least gecko, *Sphaerodactylus glaucus* Cope, 1865 (Squamata: Sphaerodactylidae) in Oaxaca, Mexico

Jesús García-Grajáles<sup>1\*</sup>, Alejandra Buenrostro-Silva<sup>2</sup> and Vicente Mata-Silva<sup>3</sup>

1 Universidad del Mar, Campus Puerto Escondido, Instituto de Recursos, km. 2.5, Carr. Puerto Escondido-Sola de Vega, San Pedro Mixtepec 71980, Oaxaca, México.

2 Universidad del Mar, Campus Puerto Escondido, Instituto de Industrias, Km 2.5, Carr. Puerto-Escondido-Sola de Vega, San Pedro Mixtepec 71980, Oaxaca, México.

3 The University of Texas at El Paso, Department of Biological Sciences, El Paso, Texas, 79968, USA.

\* Corresponding author. E-mail: [archosaurio@yahoo.com.mx](mailto:archosaurio@yahoo.com.mx)

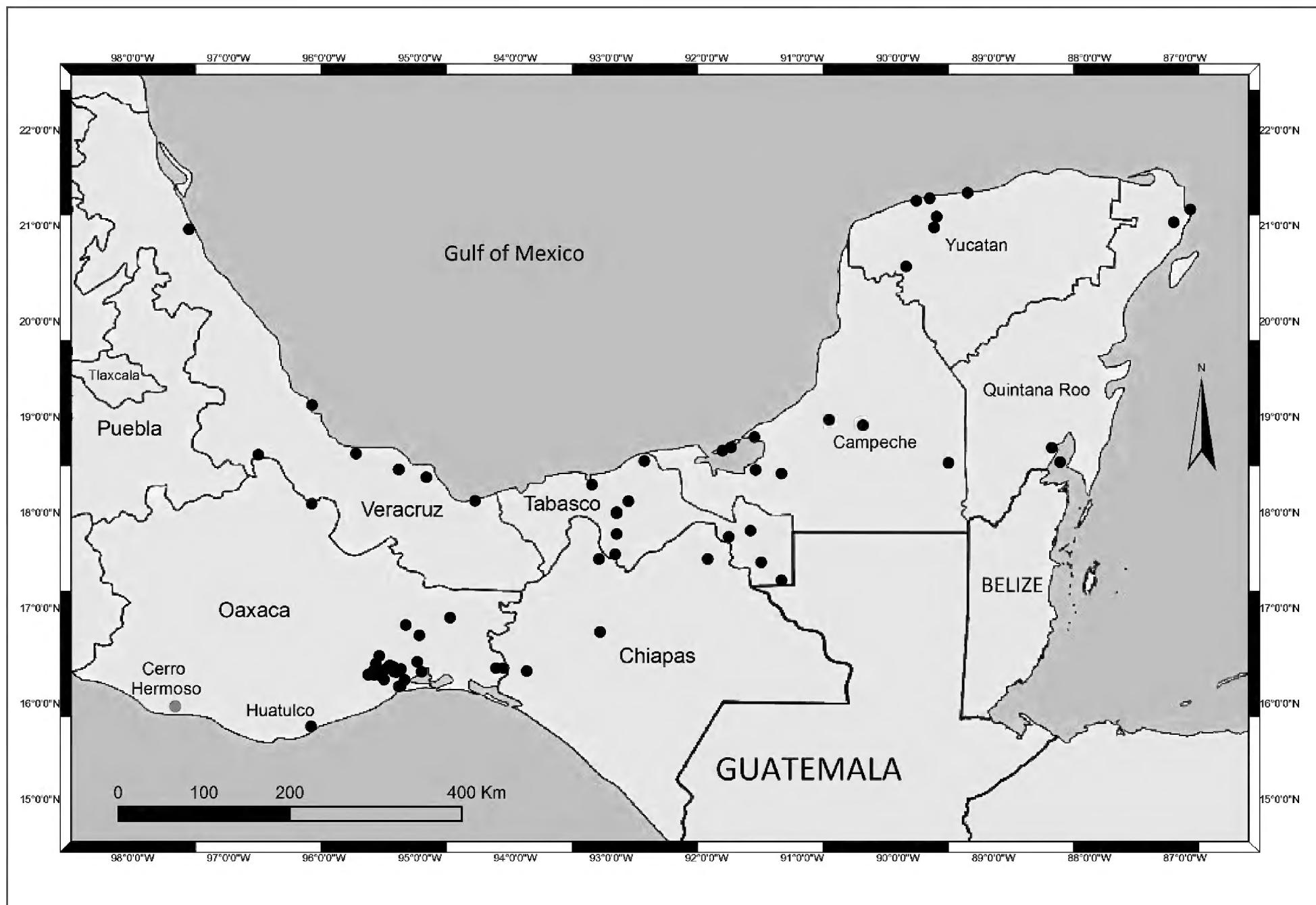
**ABSTRACT:** An adult Collared Dwarf Gecko, *Sphaerodactylus glaucus*, was found in Parque Nacional Lagunas de Chacahua, Cerro Hermoso, municipality of San Pedro Tututepec, Oaxaca, Mexico, at an elevation of 72 m. This specimen represents a new municipality record and the westernmost distribution of the species on the Pacific Coast of Mexico.

The Collared Dwarf Gecko, *Sphaerodactylus glaucus* is found from Veracruz and Oaxaca, Mexico, through the Yucatan Peninsula and northern Guatemala to western Honduras (Taylor 1947; Smith and Taylor 1966; Harris and Kluge 1984; Köhler 2008). This species has been reported from several different vegetation types, including tropical wet forest, tropical moist forest, tropical dry forest, tropical very dry forest, and subtropical moist forest, at elevations ranging from sea level to 1000 m (Wilson and Johnson 2010). On 25 June 2009 at 08:45 am, an adult *S. glaucus* (Figure 1- verified by Aurelio Ramírez-Bautista) was found in Parque Nacional Lagunas de Chacahua, Cerro Hermoso (15°58'02" N, 97°32'51" W; 72 m elevation), municipality of San Pedro Tututepec, Oaxaca, Mexico. The gecko was found under logs in an ecotonal zone of tropical dry forest and mangrove. The individual has a cream color nuchal band bordered by black bands of similar width anteriorly and posteriorly, light spots at elbow and knee, two distinct spots at base of tail, lateral narrow light bands on back, and two distinct cream color spots at base of tail bordered by black spots anteriorly and posteriorly (Smith and Taylor 1966). This specimen of *S. glaucus* has smooth dorsal scales, versus keeled in *S. continentalis*, which is also found in Mexico (McCrane and Hedges 2012). This observation represents a new municipality record and the westernmost distribution of the species on the Pacific coast, with a range extension of ca. 153 km W from the nearest locality in Huatulco, Oaxaca (Figure 2) (Smith and Taylor 1966; Harris and Kluge 1984). Currently, *S. glaucus* is considered as Not Evaluated (NE) species by the IUCN (2012). However, more recently, Wilson *et al.* (2013) placed this species in the category of medium vulnerability to environmental degradation [environmental vulnerability

score (EVS): twelve] for Mexico, based on geographic distribution, ecological distribution, and degree of human persecution. Additionally, Mexican environmental protection laws rate *S. glaucus* as Subject to Special Protection (Pr) (NOM-059-2010; SEMARNAT 2010). A photographic voucher (Fotocolecta Herpetofauna Universidad del Mar [FCHU062]) of the specimen is deposited in the photographic collection of the Universidad del Mar campus Puerto Escondido. The specimen was captured, photographed, and released under permit number SGPA/DGVS/07772/08, issued by Subsecretaría de Gestión para la Protección Ambiental-Dirección General de Vida Silvestre.



**FIGURE 1.** Adult male *Sphaerodactylus glaucus* (FCHU062 photo voucher) from Cerro Hermoso, San Pedro Tututepec, Oaxaca, México. Photo by Jesús García-Grajáles.



**FIGURE 2.** Map displaying collecting localities (dots) for *Sphaerodactylus glaucus* reported in Mexico (Smith and Taylor 1966; Harris and Kluge 1984). The red dot represents the locality of the individual reported herein.

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